

Message Text

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TECH ENRG EG IS

SUBJECT: NUCLEAR AGREEMENT

REF: STATE 234039

1. PARA 1 REFTEL NOT ENTIRELY IN AGREEMENT WITH EGYPTIAN POSITION AS WE UNDERSTOOD IT. ALTHOUGH FAHMY HAD EARLIER INSISTED SAFEGUARDS PROPOSED ALSO APPLY RETROACTIVELY TO DIMONA, SHORTLY BEFORE SALZBURG SUMMIT HE INDICATED WILLINGNESS DROP THIS DEMAND IN THE HOPE OF BEING ABLE TO ANNOUNCE AN AGREEMENT DURING THE SUMMIT. THIS WAS REPORTED AT THE TIME, BUT MAY NOT HAVE BEEN WIDELY DISSEMINATED. IN ANY CASE, IN RESPONSE EGYPTIAN INTEREST, WE REENGAGED THEM IN TECHNICAL TALKS. RECENT LETTER OF EFFAT AND LATTER'S DISCUSSIONS AT VIENNA ARE PART OF THAT EXCHANGE.

2. IN EFFORT CLARIFY GOE POSITION, AMYASSADOR ASKED FAHMY YESTERDAY FOR READING OF CURRENT POSITION OF SAFE-GUARDS. FAHMY RECALLED THAT, BECAUSE OF OUR EARLIER INSISTENCE ANY AGREEMENT WITH ISRAEL COULD NOT BE RETROACTIVE SO AS TO COVER DIMONA,, HE HAD AGREED TO DROP RETROACTIVITY POINT. HOWEVER, HE WANTS TO BE ASSURED THAT ANY PARALLEL AGREEMENT WITH ISRAEL WILL COVER FUTURE DIMONA ACTIVITIES. MOREOVER, IN ORDER TO KNOW WHAT FUTURE ACTIVITIES OF DIMONA MIGHT BE, HE BELIEVES IT WILL BE NECESSARY FOR US TO KNOW WHT THE ISRAELIS HAVE

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DONE UP TO NOW AND WHAT KIND OF MATERIALS THEY HAVE ON

HAND. IN OTHER WORDS, WHILE FAHMY IS NOW WILLING EXCLUDE PAST DIMONA PRODUCTION FROM SAFEGUARDS, HE STILL WANTS FUTURE DIMONA ACTIVITIES INCLUDED.

3. ALLUDING TO OUR POSITION THAT EGYPTIAN AND ISRAELI AGREEMENTS WILL BE IDENTICAL SO FAR AS SUBSTANTIVE MATERIAL ASPECTS OF SAFEGUARDS ARE CONCERNED, FAHMY POINTEDLY NOTED THAT WE ARE ASKING HIM TO AGREE THAT NUCLEAR FACILITIES AND MATERIAL TRANSFERRED TO EGYPT FROM ANY RPT ANY EXTERNAL SOURCE BE SO SAFEGUARDED. IN HIS VIEW, THIS SHOULD ALSO APPLY TO FUTURE RPT FUTURE DIMONA ACTIVITIES.

4. AMBASSADOR POINTED OUT TO FAHMY THAT SUCH A FORMULATION WILL SUBSTANTIALLY COMPLICATE OUR PROBLEMS. FAHMY RESPONDED IT SHOULD NOT. HE INSISTED HE CANNOT BE EXPECTED TO TIE HIS HANDS FOR THE FUTURE IF FUTURE DIMONA ACTIVITIES ARE EXCLUDED. IF THE ISRAELIS MEAN WHAT THEY SAY ABOUT NOT WANTING TO BE THE FIRST TO INTRODUCE NUCLEAR WEAPONRY INTO THE MIDDLE EAST, FAHMY ARGUED, A USG DEMAND THAT FUTURE DIMONA ACTIVITIES BE SAFEGUARDED SHOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO THEM. THEY SHOULD ALSO BE WILLING SIGN NPT AND USG SHOULD SEIZE UPON RECENT GOI STATEMENT RE NOT INTRODUCING NUCLEAR WEAPONS TO PRESS ISRAEL TO SIGN THAT DOCUMENT. AS WE KNEW, EGYPT HAS ALREADY DONE SO AND IS READY TO RATIFY SAME DAY AS ISRAEL DOES.

5. AMBASSADOR ASKED FAHMY IF EGYPTIANS ARE THINKING OF SENDING A TECHNICAL TEAM TO WASHINGTON TO WORK OUT REMAINING TECHNICAL DETAILS. FAHMY SAID THIS DEPENDS ON WHETHER WE THINK AN AGREEMENT MIGHT BE CONCLUDED DURING SADAT VISIT. HE ADDED IT IS DIFFICULT FOR HIM TO REFINES EGYPTIAN POSITION ON HIGHLY POLITICAL ISSUE SUCH AS SAFEGUARDS UNLESS HE KNOWS THE EXACT CONDITIONS WE ARE DEMANDING OF THE ISRAELIS. ONLY THEN CAN HE FRAME PROPER NEGOTIATING INSTRUCTIONS.

6. FAHMY NOTED SADAT WILL BE GREATLY DISAPPOINTED IF NO PROGRESS IS MADE ON NUCLEAR POWER REACTOR AGREEMENT

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PRIOR TO HIS VISIT. HE CLAIMED SADAT HAD RECENTLY ASKED IN NUCLEAR ENERGY COMMITTEE MEETING CHAIRED BY PRESIDENT WHETHER USG IS DELIBERATELY STALLING.

6. RE PARA 5 REFTTEL, WE SHOULD POINT OUT THAT FAHMY BELIEVES ISRAELIS HAVE RECENTLY TOLD US THEY WISH TO REVIVE NUCLEAR POWER AGREEMENT IDEA. HE BASES THIS ON NEWSPAPER REPORTS THAT ISRAELIS ARE PROCEEDING

AND ASKS WHERE, OTHER THAN FROM USG, WOULD ISRAELIS BE GETTING SUCH FACILITIES.

7. FINALLY, WHILE WE RECOGNIZE DESIRABILITY IN TERMS OF CONGRESSIONAL ACTION OF PARALLEL MOVEMENT ON EGYPTIAN AND ISRAELI FRONTS, WE SHOULD BEAR IN MIND THAT EGYPTIANS HAVE BEEN TOLD USG IS PREPARED TO PROCEED INDEPENDENTLY, SINCE ISRAELIS DID NOT SEEM TO BE INTERESTED AT THE TIME. IF THE CREDIBILITY OF OUR WORD IS NOT TO BE CALLED INTO QUESTION, WE SHOULD NOT RETREAT FROM THIS POSITION.
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